[redacted]

[redacted]

Wed 3/03/2021 12:16 PM

To: [redacted]

Hi [redacted],

I refer to my email below of 1 December 2020.

I have not received a response to that correspondence.

I note that the Code of Conduct was announced yesterday and is immediately enforceable.

As you are aware, it has been 3 years since I raised this matter of [redacted] with the Party.

I am unsure if the Party's panel can hear a matter where consent was provided to someone based on him lying about his marital status. Given that I had rejected [redacted] on a prior occasion and explained that I had no interest in being with a married man, his decision to lie was very calculated. It was certainly not 'informed consent' that I provided. Given [redacted]'s position, there is a level of seriousness to this matter which I believe has been overlooked. I have, on more than one occasion, had to refer matters to [redacted] Police due to serious threats to the safety of myself and my family. The Liberal Party is yet to take any disciplinary action against [redacted] Given the trauma that I sustain to this day, I do not see the [redacted] matter as historical.

[redacted] I would rather not know what [redacted]-money has bought in the Liberal Party.

I have concerns that the issue of [redacted] is one which may be damaging to the Prime Minister. I do not believe the PM deserves to be impacted by the actions of his [redacted], however, I am not prepared to suffer the repercussions of others' actions.

Yes, my experiences in the Party would induce other women to leave, however, that is not my intention. I have faithfully served my community and the Party far longer than the 'ring-ins' who have been elected in [redacted]. I believe the Party has the opportunity in the current climate to right the injustices that I, and others, have faced.

Given the nature of the identities involved, I am happy to have a confidential discussion with the Prime Minister, should it be possible for you to arrange.

I understand that meeting with the PM may not be possible, in which case I will pursue the internal panel process that is now available and refer the relevant matters to the AFP next week for investigation.

Yours Faithfully,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 4:04 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL - TO [redacted] ONLY

Dear [redacted],

In early May 2018, when I raised the [redacted] matter with you, I was mistakenly of the belief that action would be taken immediately, as nominations for preselection in [redacted] were closing. As you are aware, [redacted] was afforded the opportunity to delay any announcement of his future, prevent a preselection in [redacted] (to the detriment of many - especially the people of [redacted]) and exit politics relatively unscathed by his treatment of me. You may not be aware of this, but providing that information to the Party, then seeing [redacted] afforded the opportunity to do as he pleased, has had significant and long-lasting impacts on my physical health. My numerous attempts to follow up on the Party's course of action have, as you know, been met with silence. Being ignored by the Party, in return for my honesty on a situation that would have damaged the Party, has added further strain to an already difficult situation. Nobody asked if I was ok. It became clear to me that "doing the right thing" in reporting the matter had been entirely to my own detriment and that [redacted] had been provided with a level of protection as the "more important person", notwithstanding the serious dishonesty and misconduct that I had brought to light. [redacted] arguably lacked the mental capacity to be performing in his role which may have had serious consequences for a trusting Malcolm Turnbull at the time. I live with the regret of having believed that any positive change could occur quietly.

The "Four Corners" report aired recently on the ABC regarding the treatment of women in politics may not have been particularly good journalism, but it did, at its heart, raise very serious issues - issues which may not have been fairly represented by the poorly-constructed story.

It sickens me that other Liberal women experience this treatment. It sickens me that nothing has changed in my time. And it sickens me that my voicelessness may contribute to another woman being pushed down to protect the untouchable men of poor character we promote in the Party.

I discreetly reported the issue I had with [redacted] to the Party. [redacted] created such a fuss in the PMO about a [redacted] running in [redacted] that [redacted] correctly assumed what had occurred, albeit with the wrong [redacted]. In the interests of protecting my [redacted]'s good name, and given that she was a newlywed and unaware of my relationship with [redacted] until it was over, I corrected the record on which [redacted] had been involved with [redacted]. I was reasonably comfortable doing this as I would, at that point, have described [redacted] as one of my oldest and dearest friends in the Party.

Unfortunately, it became apparent over time, that the fact that [redacted] had managed to pull this off as a married man, leaning on poor mental health as the great defence, [redacted] also felt he could try the same. [redacted] had been very supportive of my professional career, whether it was seeking a Government appointment or running for preselection at the next election in [redacted]. However, after two visits to my home, where he behaved extremely inappropriately in what can only be described as a 'sexual' manner, I understand that he has changed his mind. On each occasion, my vulnerability in relation to what [redacted] and his family had been doing to me was abundantly clear. I am not

suggesting that [redacted]'s actions constituted 'assaults', but I would characterise them as highly improper. After the first incident, I asked him to help me understand what was going through his mind. It was on the basis that he was going to apologise that I allowed him to visit me the second time. In was during this visit, after another very emotional conversation about what had occurred with [redacted], that the second incident took place. I will elaborate on these, if required. At this stage, I would prefer to spare his family the details that any written communication may divulge. I also appreciate there are aspects of [redacted]'s and my friendship over the years that may be relevant and am open to discussing those further.

I have spent at least 12 months trying to obtain some sort of apology or explanation from [redacted] for his behaviour. I have tried to do this in as friendly a way as possible. While he continued to be 'a friend', he refused to discuss the issue. Failing for some months in my initial attempts, I took a firmer approach and insisted that he explain his behaviour. I prefer to believe there is some good in everyone, and there was definitely a window where I could have forgiven him. I have no idea why [redacted] didn't take advantage of the opportunity to apologise. I assume he felt that, like [redacted], his position entitled him to belittle me. Or that my last relationship would somehow suggest a "pattern of behaviour", despite [redacted] being the only partner I've had in over a decade. The last time I spoke to [redacted], perhaps two to three months ago, he claimed that stress had caused him to "black out" certain events. Apparently, the two events in my home were now unknown to him. Fortunately, I have correspondence that supports their occurrence, although I cannot believe I would ever have to resort to sharing it. [redacted] has made a number of useful contributions over the past year, such as "get help", "you're upset over nothing" and "you have issues". These remarks have been like playing "Bingo" with a gaslighter's checklist. One of my best friends lost her young daughter in the [redacted] that claimed four children's lives this year. Rather than offer condolences, [redacted] has tried to hide behind a child's death as a reason as to why I am upset towards him. I'm not sure you can go any lower.

I am very aware of what the despicable behaviour of men in our Party has cost me. I know I'm not alone. This time, I am not going to wait and wait while someone abuses their position to quietly destroy what's left of my life. I would have preferred to have kept this issue private, as, yet again, I seem to have the greater concern for the other person's children. Unfortunately, on each occasion, other people have converted their own inappropriate conduct into roadblocks for my progression in the Party. It has not been my choice to make otherwise personal matters, political, but if others wish to make matters political, then I have no choice. I have been in the Party long enough to know that my honesty and general good character are not acknowledged, nor valued. The opposite is rewarded.

Despite my extensive list of qualifications, my capability to serve, and my absolute and ongoing dedication to my local community, I know that my political future is now non-existent, thanks to my willingness to believe a lifelong family friend about his marital status 5 years ago. I am not going to suffer that injustice without seeing it be of benefit to other people around me. [redacted] was empowered to ensure I was ruled out of [redacted] permanently. [redacted] is on a very limited list of those aware of the history with [redacted]. His attempt to connect his personal misbehaviour and my political prospects is unconscionable.

I am requesting that immediate action be taken to demonstrate that [redacted]'s behaviour does not accurately reflect the standards of the Prime Minister and his office. Currently, I have no choice but to accept that it does. I am requesting a response to my concerns from the Party and/or the PMO by 5pm Wednesday 9 December 2020. I am happy to remain discreet on my experiences within the Party until then. We are overdue in demonstrating that this type of conduct is unacceptable. It is a form of abuse.

I am available to speak to anyone who requires further information.

I look forward to your response.

Regards,

[redacted]